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THE BAPTIST

JAN 28 1997

Record

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Baptists minister in silent Gaza world

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

GAZA (BP) — Becky Walker came to Gaza, amid the noise of violence, to focus on the silence.

In the heart of Gaza, Walker says nothing but talks to a group of children — with fast-moving hands, an expressive face, and lots of love.

The dark-eyed children beam back at her, quickly signing responses to her questions and asking others. If sign language were audible, the air would be thick with chatter.

International Service Corps.

While most newcomers to Gaza spend at least two years learning Arabic, Walker was able to communicate with deaf Palestinians within a couple of hours using sign language.

"Fortunately, signing is based on the face, and faces are the same all over the world," she says modestly.

At the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children, the first deaf school in Gaza, Walker has helped establish a program teaching instructors how to sign. She also has helped families with deaf children.

Atfaluna, a privately funded charity founded in 1992 by a group of women health care and educational professionals, now has 122 deaf children enrolled.

It offers a wide range of services for the deaf, including special education, vocational training, hearing aids, and family services.

The school is squeezed into several floors of a well-kept building in Gaza City and is bright with the art of students.

Atfaluna is one of many helping ministries springing up as the Palestinian people struggle to create a nation out of refugee camps.

About 15,000 deaf people live in Gaza, says Atfaluna director Gerry Shawa. That's a high percentage for the estimated 800,000 Palestinians who call the Gaza Strip home.

Deafness is most often caused by marriage within family groups, but other leading causes are related to the perpetual poverty of the Palestinians. Parents often can-

not afford treatment for their children's simple ear infections.

Meningitis, another poverty-related malady, also leaves many children handicapped.

The deaf often are poorly understood and shunned in Palestinian culture.

"Deafness has a great social stigma attached to it, as does any kind of disability," says Shawa, an American who has lived in Gaza 25 years with her Palestinian husband.

"Most people here simply equate deafness with mental retardation, which isn't true. They don't understand deaf people are like normal, hearing people; they just can't hear," she says.

One woman told Walker recently that when she learned her child was deaf she wished he would die.

Little is known here about deafness, which means parents usually are unable to communicate with their deaf children.

Sign language is not common. The deaf in Gaza seldom learn to read and write.

"People like Becky are helping our people understand deafness," Shawa says.

"Now deaf people feel free to walk in the streets and sign. And even here at the center ... Becky has really helped us understand how deaf people see the world and what language means to deaf people," she says.

As part of her work, Walker has helped adapt a teacher's manual that likely will be used for years here.

During a class she watches the signing students closely, sometimes breaking in with a flurry of signs to offer suggestions.



TEACHING TEACHERS —

Southern Baptist missionary Becky Walker (standing) teaches instructors and parents of deaf children how to communicate in sign language at the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in Gaza. Walker's ministry touches the lives of the school's 122 deaf children, 60 families, and six teachers. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

Each week she leads classes for 60 families with deaf children and has taught them to communicate with each other using sign language.

Her face lights up as she tells of parents being able to "talk" for the first time.

"We must empower them to be independent and to build their self-esteem," she says.

"If kids can see deaf people teaching, it gives them hope," she points out.



HANDS AND HEART — Becky Walker (second from left) ministers to deaf Palestinian children in Gaza. The area's 15,000 deaf people often suffer from the social stigma attached to deafness, but Walker is helping hearing people understand the deaf. At right is Rehab Shehada, another deaf teacher. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

In two years Walker has made a difference in the lives of scores of deaf Palestinians.

She and her husband Dennis, a theological teacher and business manager, are serving in Gaza through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Clarke bills introduced

BCV answers "Why me?"

'Home Life' turns 50

Miss. missionary in Brazil

BSSB kicks off 'YouthScape'

"YouthScape," a new site on the World Wide Web for youth workers, parents, and teenagers, recently went live on the Internet, according to site coordinator Craig Kendall of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville.

Kendall said the initial release of YouthScape went live Jan. 13, and includes information on Bible studies, youth who are leading in their churches, evangelism tips, mission trip information, leadership tips, Centrifuge and Crosspoint updates, Hot Products for youth ministry, and many other items of interest.

Kendall said he hopes YouthScape will eventually become "a comprehensive entry point into all Baptist Sunday School Board-related youth ministry areas, with hyperlinks to other Southern Baptist youth-related sites on the Internet. We want this to be one of the first places people turn for youth-related information and resources on the World Wide Web," he said.

The Internet address is <http://www.youthscape.com>, and it can also be accessed through the "Teaching Lives" section of the BSSB's corporate Web site, <http://www.bssb.com>.

Looking back

10 years ago

North Delta Association hosts an open house and dedication for its new office and ministry center at 2400 4th Street, Clarksdale. M. C. Johnson is director of missions; Jim Harris is ministry center director.

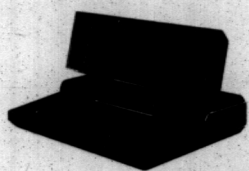
20 years ago

First Church, Moss Point, invites 35 area Vietnamese families to a dinner to hear Lewis Myers, missionary to Vietnam for 12 years. First Church, Moss Point; First Church, Pascagoula; and Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula, sponsor Vietnamese refugee families.

50 years ago

A. L. Goodrich, editor of "The Baptist Record," is seriously though not critically injured in a car wreck on Highway 51 a few miles east of Canton. A pick-up truck without lights is believed to be the cause of the accident.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**
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A bitter lesson: quick fixes don't last

The Jan. 20 newspaper brought the troubling news that Tunica County schools were facing "fear, failure, and an uncertain future" as the Mississippi Department of Education considered a takeover before the entire county school system was dragged down.

"The children are getting the short end of the stick," said one middle school teacher quoted in "The Clarion Ledger" article.

Another teacher complained that she cannot utilize educational videotapes in her classroom because the only available video player in the whole school is always in use.

Tunica County is certainly not alone in this predicament. Poor facilities, inadequate equipment, and general lack of funding have pushed many such Mississippi school districts to the brink.

It seems I recall our politicians promising us that legalized alcohol would provide perpetual funding for our schools and rescue us from educational mediocrity.

Oops... that was the 1960's. Excuse me.

Our present-day politicians promised — and continue to promise — that legalized gambling is the only way to save our schools.

Has that been the case thus far in the history of legalized gambling in Mississippi?

Many people in places like Tunica County would answer with a resounding "no!"

Tunica County is the most lucrative gambling market in Mississippi, easily surpassing the Gulf Coast because of the county's proximity to the Memphis metropolitan area.

Tunica County casinos are swimming in money. Construction is booming in casino areas and roads are being expanded.

According to "The Clarion Ledger," Tunica County schools received only \$2.6 million of a local gambling bounty that is annually counted in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

At the risk of oversimplifying complex educational issues, it seems obvious that

the poverty-stricken students who were paraded before the public as poster children for legalized alcohol and gambling have not benefitted greatly from those legalizations.

In fact, alcohol and gambling make life even more miserable for Mississippi children living in poverty.

The Mississippi Baptist Children's Village is brimming with children suffering from their parents' alcohol abuse.

Shelters for battered wives and families are overflowing, and alcohol is often the culprit.

Small children are routinely locked in cars while parents gamble away money for food and shelter.

Our own people are not exempt from the effects — witness "Gaylon" (Oct. 24, 1996 issue), the Southern Baptist mom who considered prostituting her teenage daughter to feed an insatiable gambling addiction.

It's time we stopped believing the lies.

Alcohol and gambling are not good for our children.

Alcohol and gambling are not good for our children's education.

Alcohol and gambling are not good for anyone, and certainly not for Mississippi's families.

Mississippi faces many difficult issues, and answers aren't going to always be easy and painless.

Legalized alcohol and gambling afford us an easy "out" so that we don't have to confront those difficult issues head-on.

No one likes to pay taxes, and we don't want government services cut in areas that personally affect us (the "not in my back yard" syndrome).

Yet, we as Mississippi citizens seem willing to put off the tough decisions in favor of

**"YOU KNOW, I FIRST STARTED
READING THE BIBLE SO I
COULD JUDGE IT. PRETTY
SOON I NOTICED THAT IT
WAS JUDGING ME."**



quick fixes like alcohol and gambling.

The decisions must still be made some day. History has at least taught us that much.

Let's don't leave this mess for our children to clean up.

They deserve better from us, don't they?



A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



*The secret to a fulfilling,
life-long relationship*

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

received hundreds of letters from women who felt stuck in unrewarding marriages.

Their situations remind me of the farmer who got so tired of arguing with his wife that he built himself a little apartment behind their home.

When their pastor learned of this, he paid a visit to the farmer's new apartment.

The two men sat down together at the kitchen table.

There were curtains on the windows, a table cloth on the table with matching dish towels at the sink — obviously a woman's touch.

In the middle of the table was a fresh pecan pie.

The farmer said, "You know, preacher, a man can hardly live with ol' Sarah, but she makes a

mighty fine neighbor."

Sadly, the truth is what passes for a good marriage is in many situations a routine, pleasant arrangement that avoids loneliness and provides a degree of predictability and safety.

Beneath the veneer of social custom, there lies a rather large repository of tension, bitterness, regret, and outright resentment.

In case you haven't figured it out, marriage is difficult. It takes hard work.

As a pastor, almost every time I did a wedding and listened to a couple in love repeat their vows to one another, I wondered, "Could they really do it?"

Could two people really love, honor, trust, and serve one another, "in sickness and in health; in adversity and in pros-

perity; and be true and loyal... as long as ye both shall live?"

What does it take to get along for a lifetime?

Men and women share a common problem, and each partner brings this problem into the relationship.

The problem is this: We are all deeply committed, first and foremost, to ourselves.

The secret to a fulfilling, life-long relationship is learning to be "other-centered," instead of "self-centered."

I wish I could say that I have mastered this little task.

I'm trying, and being married to Frances makes trying a lot easier.

Larry Crabb has written a wonderful little book that gives some practical and sensible advice on marriage.

It is called, "Men & Women: Enjoying the Difference." I highly recommend it to you.

I am convinced that marriage is God's gift for us to enjoy, not a burden for us to bear.

Go to Bible study and worship at the church of your choice this Sunday.

One thing's for certain — it can't hurt your marriage, and it may well help!

Clarke bills introduced; auction nets \$22K

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Identical bills to appropriate funds for the state's purchase of the Clarke College campus in Newton have been filed with the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Mississippi Legislature.

The \$16.5 million appropriation measure includes \$9 million for the purchase and renovation of the Clarke College campus "for the operation of a residential psychiatric hospital," according to the language of the bills.

Clarke College, a former Mississippi Baptist-affiliated junior college, closed in May 1992.

Senate Bill (SB) 2392, filed by District 44 Senator James L. Bean Jr. of Hattiesburg, is in the Senate Finance Committee.

House Bill (HB) 912, which is identical to SB 2392, was filed by District 43 Representative Robert J. Moody of Louisville.

"I think when we are able to express the necessity and the

bargain we will be getting with this property, and what it is going to do to provide for the needs of the mentally handicapped of Mississippi, (HB 912) will pass," Moody said.

HB 912 has been referred to the Finance subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Moody went on to add that he anticipates a quick movement through the committee and to the floor of the House.

In August 1996, Tupelo businessman Larry Otis, chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) special committee formed to dispose of the Clarke property, announced that the Mississippi State Department of Mental Health (DMH) had entered into a \$25,000 option to purchase the campus from Mississippi Baptists for \$1,000,000.

DMH plans to convert the property into a facility for adults age 35 and older who need limited daily supervision in a residential setting.

DMH has assumed responsibility for the maintenance and security of the Clarke College property, according to Otis.

"This takes a great financial burden off Mississippi Baptists and effects a savings of expenses until they conclude the purchase," Otis wrote in a Jan. 16 memo to the special committee.

In a related activity, an auction was held at the Clarke Campus on Saturday, Jan. 10, by Gillentine Auction Company to dispose of miscellaneous property on the campus, except items requested to remain by DMH.

The auction attracted over 370 registered bidders and brought a net of \$22,586 after the auctioneer's fees.

Otis estimated it would have cost Mississippi Baptist between \$8,000 - \$10,000 to hire people to haul away the items.

One acre of land with a house was reserved from the proposed sale and deeded to the Clarke College Alumni Association on Oct. 17, 1996, as directed by messengers to the 1995 MBC.

Alumni have been very active in preserving Clarke College memorabilia, and the Alumni House is open to visitors.

Alumni have organized a Clarke College Alumni Chorus that sings for special functions.

They have also revived Clarke College Lottie Moon Christmas Offering activities. About a dozen alumni set a goal of \$600 and have thus far raised over \$2,000, Otis said in the memo.

Mississippi Baptists can contact legislators about the Clarke bills in their home district, or in Jackson during the legislative session at P. O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205-1018. The legislature's Jackson telephone phone number is (601) 359-3770.

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JANUARY 23, 1997

VOL. 120

NO. 49

Musgrove offers keys to public service

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Lt. Governor Ronnie Musgrove urged Baptist Building employees Jan. 17 to

remember to submit themselves to God as little children.

"It's at that point we can be used," he said.

Musgrove, a deacon at First Church, Batesville, was the fea-

tured speaker at Jan. 17 chapel services in the Baptist Building.

He pointed to 1 Cor. 12:5 as a Scripture verse he has claimed for his role as a public servant: "There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord." (NIV)

"I find myself in the political arena (of service)," he said.

Musgrove, an attorney and longtime state senator serving his first term as Lt. Governor, lamented the loss of confidence in public officials.

"There are many reasons. Some are justified," he said.

"I believe people don't expect public officials to be perfect, but they expect them to be straightforward," he explained.

Musgrove listed the qualities he believes Mississippians expect in their officeholders:

◆ **Commitment** to Christian principles, family, and the greater good of the state.

Musgrove, a lifelong Mississippian, is married and the father of two children who attend school in Batesville.

◆ **Courage** to make unpopular decisions when it's the right thing to do, and not retreat in the face of criticism.

Musgrove recounted the withering criticism he received several years ago when he voted against the state lottery proposal that went down to defeat in the state Senate.

"The Clarion-Ledger" newspaper in Jackson published an editorial criticizing the vote that included photos of every senator who voted against the proposal.

Musgrove said when he and his wife went out to eat after that, they would often find that editorial and his photo posted in restaurants they frequented.

"Many times — most times — Christ and his disciples were

in the minority," he pointed out.

◆ **Character** that enables honesty, accountability, and leadership when the debate heats up.

"It's important to be a voice



LT. GOVERNOR VISTS BAPTIST BUILDING — Bill Causey (left), executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), talks with Mississippi Lt. Governor Ronnie Musgrove of Batesville after Musgrove addressed MBCB employees during Jan. 17 Chapel services in the Baptist Building. Musgrove is a deacon at First Church, Batesville (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

of reason while standing your ground," Musgrove.

He offered two suggestions for Christians to follow when things don't go their way:

◆ **Be humble**, and recognize God's power over this world," he said.

◆ **Conviction** to be fair but firm, and strong but compassionate.

"If we would follow these ideas, we would be better public servants."

"We can't do joy and peace; only Christ can (give) those things," he said.

CAC expresses opposition to Senate Resolution 501

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

A formal resolution has been filed in the Mississippi Senate that could have the effect of expanding gambling operations to areas of the state that have voted against gambling or aren't covered under state law, according to Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC).

Jones said state Senator Terry L. Jordan of Philadelphia, where the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is headquartered, is sponsoring Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 501, which would recognize the Choctaws as a government exercising "sovereign governmental powers for the past 50 years and having jurisdiction on lands within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi."

Jones pointed out that the resolution appears to be an attempt to grant to the Choctaw Indian tribe the right to expand casino gambling into parts of Mississippi where the tribe currently owns land or could purchase land in the future.

"Once the Legislature recognizes the Choctaw nation as a government exercising sovereign governmental powers," the tribe can make the argument to the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs that as a sovereign nation they can operate casinos on any land they own without any control or regulation by the State of Mississippi," Jones said.

Concurrent Resolution 501 needs to be strongly and immediately opposed by all Mississippians desiring the preservation of integrity in our state's gaming laws.

Resolution 501 carries no force of law. It is merely a statement of opinion. The CAC has no objection to the resolution being passed, but it is a statement of opinion that the CAC does not support. The CAC has no objection to the resolution being passed, but it is a statement of opinion that the CAC does not support.

Jones said that there are no plans to ever expand gambling into areas of the state that have voted against gambling or aren't covered under state law.

Jones said SCR 501 is simply a way to build on the growing relationship between the government and the Choctaws.

For more information, contact the CAC by telephone at (601) 359-3770 in Jackson during the current legislative session, and by mail at P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205-1018.

Correction

An article on page three of the Jan. 16 edition incorrectly stated the amount of the 1996 Cooperative Program overage to be placed in the "challenge" portion of the budget. The correct amount is \$1,107,186.

Southern Baptists nurture national leaders

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

A significant number of Southern Baptists hold political leadership in America's national government.

In fact, Southern Baptists occupy some of the most prominent political offices in the United States.

These offices include:

◆ President Bill Clinton of Arkansas, a member of Emmanuel Church, Little Rock.

◆ Vice-president, Al Gore of Tennessee, a member of Mount Vernon Church, Alexandria, Va.

◆ Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich of Georgia, a member of New Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga. (though he often attends Johnson Ferry Church, Marietta, Ga.).

◆ President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, a member of First Church, Aiken, S.C.

In order of ascension to the Presidency as specified in the 25th

Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the first four office holders are Southern Baptists.

If the President should die or be unable to serve, the Vice President would serve, followed by the Speaker of the House, and then the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Next in line of succession are designated members of the president's cabinet.

The current Congress includes at least 34 Southern Baptists — seven senators and 27 representatives.

Among the Mississippi Southern Baptist members of Congress are:

◆ Senator Trent Lott (R) of Pascagoula, who was recently elected Senate Majority Leader by his colleagues.

Lott is a member of First Church, Pascagoula.

◆ Senator Thad Cochran (R) of Byram, who has also held a number of leadership positions in the nation's upper chamber.

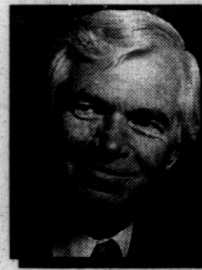
Cochran is a member of Northminster Church, Jackson.

◆ Congressman Roger Wicker (R) of Tupelo, a member of First Church, Tupelo.

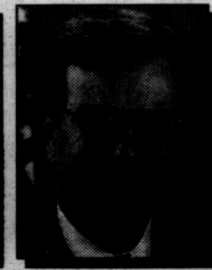
◆ Congressman Charles "Chip" Pickering (R) of Laurel, the youngest and newest mem-

ber of Mississippi's Washington delegation, elected in Nov. 1996.

Pickering is a member of First Church, Laurel.



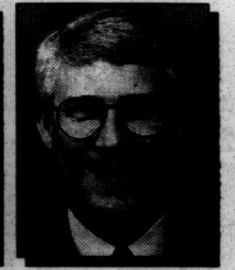
Cochran



Lott



Pickering



Wicker

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS IN CONGRESS

U.S. SENATE

Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark.
Wendell Ford, D-Ky.
Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.
Thad Cochran, R-Miss.
Trent Lott, R-Miss.
Jesse Helms, R-N.C.
Strom Thurmond, R-S.C.

Harold Rogers, R-Ky.
Steny Hoyer, D-Md.
Charles Pickering, R-Miss.
Roger Wicker, R-Miss.
Richard Gephardt, D-Mo.
Roy Blunt, R-Mo.
Bobby E. Ehrlich, D-N.C.
Bill Helmer, D-N.C.
Charles Taylor, R-N.C.
Tom Coburn, R-Okla.
J. C. Watts, R-Okla.
Frank Lucas, R-Okla.
Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.
Zach Wamp, R-Tenn.
Steve Stockman, R-Tex.
Tom DeLay, R-Tex.
Owen Pickett, D-Va.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Spencer Bachus, R-Ala.
Terry Everett, R-Ala.
Bob Riley, R-Ala.
J. D. Hayworth, R-Ariz.
Asa Hutchinson, R-Ark.
Joe Scarborough, R-Fla.
Newt Gingrich, R-Ga.
Nathan Deal, R-Ga.
Glenn Poshard, D-Ill.
Ron Lewis, R-Ky.

Source: Tom Storde of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's Washington office

Miss. Baptists support effort to end abortions

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Baptists lined up behind Governor Kirk Fordice — literally and figuratively — for his Jan. 16 proclamation declaring "Week of Prayer to End Abortion" in Mississippi.

Fordice announced he had signed the proclamation during a special afternoon news conference on the south steps of the New Capitol in downtown Jackson.

As a cold winter wind whipped around the Capitol, the governor read the proclamation verbatim to the assembled crowd.

Among the Southern Baptists attending the ceremony were Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian

Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and Beth Holmes, CAC consultant for women's and family issues.

Jones offered the opening prayer.

Southern Baptist state senators present at the news conference included Richard White of Terry, a CAC trustee, and Travis Little of Corinth.

Randy Russell, a Jackson ophthalmologist and Southern Baptist active in the pro-life movement, was also invited to stand with Fordice during the ceremony.

Monica Baldwin, a Southern Baptist and president of Right to Life of Jackson, pointed out that letters of support for the week of prayer had been received from almost every major Mississippi officeholder, including:

- ◆ Lt. Governor Ronnie Musgrove (D), a Southern Baptist.
- ◆ Attorney General Mike Moore (D).
- ◆ Treasurer Marshall Bennett (D).
- ◆ Secretary of State Eric Clark (D), a Southern Baptist.
- ◆ Auditor Phil Bryant (R).
- ◆ U.S. Senator Thad Cochran (R), a Southern Baptist.
- ◆ U.S. Senator Trent Lott (R), a Southern Baptist.
- ◆ Congressman Roger Wicker (R-1st Dist.), a Southern Baptist.
- ◆ Congressman Chip Pickering (R-3rd Dist.), a Southern Baptist.
- ◆ Congressman Mike Parker (R-4th Dist.).
- ◆ Congressman Gene Taylor (D-5th Dist.).



PROCLAIMING WEEK OF PRAYER — Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice (at podium) announces the signing of the proclamation declaring Jan. 16-22 as the "Week of Prayer to End Abortion" at a chilly Jan. 16 news conference at the state capitol in Jackson. Paul Jones (front row, second from right), executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, offered the opening prayer at the news conference. Jones is flanked by Doug Lane (left) and Monica Baldwin (right), both of Right to Life of Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

"No other state has taken such a unified stand for the unborn," Baldwin pointed out.

In addition to the proclamation activities, approximately 300 people attended the ninth annual Candlelight Vigil pro-life event Jan. 18 on the steps of the Capitol, and Southern Baptists observed a national Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on Jan. 19.

For more information on pro-life issues, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

A PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR KIRK FORDICE

Whereas, abortion has been denounced throughout the history of the Christian Church; and

Whereas, many churches and agencies offer alternatives to abortion:

Now, therefore, I Kirk Fordice, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim the week of Jan. 16-22, 1997,

WEEK OF PRAYER TO END ABORTION

in the state of Mississippi.

Therefore, let us pray that the hearts of mothers and fathers will be turned to their children, born and unborn;

that churches in Mississippi will continue to respond appropriately to those considering abortion by offering loving alternatives to women in crisis;

that government will continue to do all possible to protect the lives of the unborn; and,

that those to whom God has given the gift of healing use that gift not to destroy lives, but to save them.

Kirk Fordice
Governor



'Why me?' questions answered at BCV

By Mike R. Milner
Former Village resident

I was six years old when I came to the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village in 1969 with my sister and two of my three brothers.

time to time, but it would have been nice to be just one, to have the attention of two parents all to myself.

I was alone, even though I was never by myself.

Yes, I did miss out on the benefits of a father and mother,

but the greatest thing happened one night when I found myself alone in the cottage's den — a miracle in itself.

I was watching a Billy Graham crusade on television. I don't know why I didn't change the channel; I was by myself and had control of the television.

Something

or someone got me interested in what I was seeing and hearing.

That never-ending question of "Why me?" stopped, and in its place was the comfort and peace that I was okay — that I was forever taken care of, that I would never be alone whatever happened, that Jesus would be with me.

That was 22 years ago that the Lord became my Savior. He came into my heart and will always be there.

I will never be alone, and I thank him for that.

The Baptist Children's Village helped me grow in my faith. I came to realize they were not there just to feed me

and provide a place to sleep.

God provided them to assist me in my walk with him.

I went to Mississippi College on a football scholarship, but injured my knee two years later and had surgery.

I reinjured the same knee the next spring and my football days were over.

I did not know how I was going to finish the remaining two-and-a-half years of my education, but I knew I would be okay.

There were no questions asked. I continued to go to school like nothing ever happened.

With the goal of completing my education, I met the most wonderful and beautiful girl I have ever known.

The only problem was we were just "friends."

However, the Lord finally convinced her that I was a good cause and we were married 16 months later.

Then the real adventure began.

Because I did not know the responsibilities of a husband and father, I am grateful that the Lord provided me with a woman strong enough to be there when I failed miserably.

God blessed me with my

wife Susan, and now with Blake, 7; Ethan, 6; Kate, 4; and Callie, 18 months.

I have been asked, "How can a child growing up without a mother and a father raise a family of his own?"

The answer is simple: faith in the Lord.

All I have to do is ask, "What would he have me do?"

Yes, I make wrong choices from time to time.

I am still like a child when it comes to something in which I have little experience, but I know I am loved by my children, my wife, and my Savior.

I will never be alone.

Editor's note: The Milners are members of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

In honor of the centennial of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village, the state's Baptist churches are asked to prayerfully consider supporting the Village for one day in 1997 — a cost of \$7,500.

For more information or to request a pledge card, contact Charlette Thomas, Village public relations director, at (601) 922-2242.

THE MILNERS — (from left) Ethan, Susan, Callie, Mike, Kate, and Blake. (Special photo)

I had many questions. The first was, "Why?"

Did I do something wrong? Did my mother not want us anymore? Was that the reason Daddy left us?

It took the next 17 years to answer most of my questions. Some are still unanswered.

Life at the Village was an adventure. Growing up with 143 other children had its advantages, as well as disadvantages.

It was good to be able to disappear in the numbers from

Baptist Symphony debuts at Evangelism Conference

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Director

"Magnificent sound honoring God," is the way Graham Smith describes the Jan. 27 premiere engagement of the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra during the 1997 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference at Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

Smith, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), was instrumental — no pun intended — in bringing together what will likely be the largest assemblage of instrumentalists in any Mississippi Baptist church.

The Evangelism Conference, which takes place Jan. 27 and 28, will feature the orchestra during the 6:30 p.m. evening session on Jan. 27.

A year ago at the state Baptist Church Orchestra Festival in Brandon, Smith said he listened to a group of 75 instrumentalists playing together for an audience of family and friends.

"I felt that more people needed to be blessed by this magnificent sound honoring God," said Smith.

He suggested the orchestra idea to the planners of this year's orchestra festival, who readily agreed to a rehearsal on Jan. 18.

"There is not a sacred symphony orchestra in Mississippi

that I know of, outside of a few churches," said Smith.

Orchestra leader will be Bruce Zeiger, minister of music at Calvary Church, New Orleans.

Zeiger was lead trumpeter for the U.S. Air Force Band.

After retiring from the military, he earned a music degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Zeiger will be featured as a trumpet soloist with the symphony orchestra.

In addition to the orchestra, the Mississippi Singing Churchmen will conduct a mini-concert during the 6:30 p.m. session on Jan. 28.

Musical accompanists during the Evangelism Conference include Dot Pray and Lora Patton on piano; and Patsy Alford and Jan Rodgers on organ.

Pray and Alford are MBCB music staffers, while Patton and Rodgers are Broadmoor Church music staffers.

Music worship leaders on Monday afternoon will be R. L. and Beth Sigrest, music evangelists from Yazoo City.

Riley Harper, minister of music at Emmanuel Church, Greenville, will be general music leader for the conference.

For more information, contact the MBCB Evangelism Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, Ms 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Evangelists' Profile

This space is dedicated to Mississippi men and women who have committed themselves to vocational evangelism. Churches are encouraged to take advantage of their talents in helping to reap the harvest.

This week's evangelist

Ronnie Cottingham
Agricola

Years in ministry: 25
Education: Clark College, University of Mississippi



Seminar scheduled for Alta Woods

A seminar on how Christians deal with contemporary social problems will be held at Alta Woods Church in Jackson on Jan. 30. The seminar is sponsored by The Samaritan Counseling Center (SCS) of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, along with several Jackson-area churches.

The program will begin with dinner at 6 p.m., and conferences will begin for 7 p.m. Topics include personal health, stress, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Cost (including dinner) is \$3 per adult, \$2 per child, and \$10 maximum per family. Childcare is provided at no additional cost. For more information and to make reservations for dinner and childcare, contact SCS at (601) 973-1697.

Douglas to keynote Women's Conference

Donna Douglas, known around the world as "Ellie May" in the enduring television series "The Beverly Hillbillies," will be the featured speaker for the Feb. 21-22 Women's Conference at Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

The conference theme is "A Woman's Walk With God... One Day at a Time."

The conference will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, with "Dessert with Donna," and adjourn at 9 p.m.

Participants will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, and the conference will end at 12 noon that day.

Although Douglas is most widely known for her role on "The Beverly Hillbillies," the former Louisiana beauty queen had already appeared prior to that on "The Ed Sullivan Show," "The Perry Como Show," and "The Steve Allen Show."

She starred in the movies "Career," "Lil' Abner," and "Lover Come Back," and had made a number of television series appearances when she was chosen over 500 aspirants for the role of Ellie May.

"The Beverly Hillbillies" was an instant hit for the CBS television network and remained the number one television show in the country for two straight years.

Even in the ninth year of production,

long after most television series have faded, "The Beverly Hillbillies" consistently placed in the top 20 most-watched shows.

The show remains one of the most popular syndicated television series in the world — almost 30 years after the first episode aired.

Douglas has remained active in the entertainment industry, producing three gospel albums, a television pilot, and two movies. She is also in demand as a national Christian speaker for women's groups, churches, conventions, civic groups, and youth organizations.

Carol Joy Sparkman, music evangelist and member of Parkway Church, Clinton, will provide special music for the conference.

Registration cost is \$20 per person (\$25 after Feb. 10 deadline). Childcare will not be provided.

For more information, contact Broadmoor Church at 787 E. Northside Drive, Jackson, MS 39206. Telephone: (601) 366-8433.



Douglas

Brookhaven CML workshop set

A Church Media Library workshop on "Care and Repair of Books" and "Church Media Library Administration" will be hosted by Copiah and Lincoln associations on Feb. 15 at the Howard Johnson Motel in Brookhaven. Instructor will be Peggy Tacon of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The workshop will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Reservation fee of \$5 per person includes lunch. Mail reservation fee by Feb. 10 deadline to Lincoln Baptist Association, Attention: CML, P.O. Box 363, Brookhaven, MS 39601. For more information, contact Joan Beasley at (601) 894-2984 or Agatha Sandidge at (601) 833-5162.

'Home Life' turns 50, charts next half-century

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — As magazines go, "Home Life," at age 50, is considered on up there, but most 50-year-olds could tell you that holding AARP credentials hardly signifies senility.

In fact, "Home Life's" new editor, Jon Walker, argues the family periodical produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board is just getting its second wind.

many of the same issues, according to Walker, who said he wants "Home Life" to illustrate "not how people are overcoming adversity, but how God is overcoming it in them."

"('Home Life') might deal with divorce, abortion, teen pregnancy — all of the things families are having to deal with now, but we will deal with them in a way that would talk about what the Bible has to say about the issues," Walker said. "I want there to be a real spiritual edge to the magazine. I want our articles to literally ooze the spirit of God."

Walker, who took over the helm of the magazine last fall, believes his biggest challenge is to take a magazine with which Southern Baptists are familiar and tweak it enough to bring in new readers.

"That it is well known is one of its greatest strengths, but it is also one of its greatest weaknesses because everybody assumes they know it," Walker said. "Our subscription rate is 500,000 a month, but there are 16 million Southern Baptists out there. While we are attempting not to lose any of our current readers, we want to

expand our base and get more people."

Doubtless, it is difficult to please everybody, Walker acknowledged.

"We are attempting to be more broad-based (at a time) when magazines should be niche-oriented," he said.

Obviously, that's broad-based in the broadest sense of the word, he said, noting "Home Life" is a magazine for Christian families.

For example, Walker said, any controversial article he publishes will run with a clear sidebar that "talks about what the Bible has to say about that."

"Then if someone wants to argue with what is said," Walker said, "they will be arguing with what the Word of God says."

Walker also wants to emphasize "Home Life" articles will not be sugar-coated.

Describing himself as a recovered backslidden Christian, Walker claimed to be neither naive nor a prude.

"My point is, we are not going to approach 'Home Life' from the standpoint that we put forth the perfect family all the time."

"I don't think any father or mother sets off to be a crummy father or a poor mother, or an unfaithful wife. Everybody wants to be good."

"What I hope 'Home Life' is going to be is a magazine that helps people look past the cares of the world and look at the fact that having a good family is sometimes an element of choice."



"'Home Life' has lasted for 50 years because it continues to make changes," Walker said of the resilient publication that turns 50 this month (January 1997). "The magazine continually adapts as it deals with family issues."

Watch for more biblically based, issue-oriented articles as "Home Life" begins its journey into the next 50 years, said Walker, who acknowledges the publication cannot ignore worldly topics that confront today's family.

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YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED FOR SUMMER MISSIONS: For information, cities, dates, costs call 1-800-299-0385, Youth on Mission, Box 2095, Rocky Mount, NC 27802.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH of Eureka, Missouri is prayerfully accepting resumes until March 15, 1997 for a dynamic, full-time Youth/Music Minister to serve in a rapidly growing community. Send resumes to Central Baptist Church, PO Box 66, Eureka, MO 63025, Attn. Search Committee.

Mississippian staffs AIDS 'House of Hope' |

By Mary E. Speidel
SBC Foreign Mission Board

VITORIA, Brazil (BP) — When Regina Celia Teixeira Carvalho talks about her family, her choice of words speaks volumes. "They are nauseated by me," she says.

Why? Carvalho has AIDS.

When she had a miscarriage, she says, the man she lived with left her. She started losing weight. Later a blood test showed she had the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) — the virus that causes AIDS.

After she told her family, "they didn't feel the same about me anymore," Carvalho says. "Friends were even worse."

She found a place where people care. It's called "House of Hope," a Baptist AIDS hospice in Vitoria, Brazil, where people with AIDS can stay after they're released from the hospital but are too sick to go home.

Out-of-town patients use the house while getting treatment at local clinics. Some, like Carvalho, live at the house because they've nowhere else to go.

Through House of Hope, Southern Baptists help share Christ's love with Brazilian AIDS patients.

About \$134,000 in Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) human needs funds have helped finance the house and its ministries.

The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union

adopted House of Hope as its 1996 national ministry project and gave almost \$109,000.

These gifts — along with those from Brazilian Baptists and local residents — help FMB missionaries Karen and Tony Gray keep the house running.

Karen is a native of Moss Point, while Tony is from Alabama.

They opened House of Hope in June 1995, two years after Karen began visiting AIDS patients in Vitoria hospitals.

God gave her the idea for the house one night when she couldn't sleep for worrying about the patients' needs.

A former teacher, she has no training in pastoral care, social work or health care.

You'd never guess that.

In Carvalho's room at House of Hope, Gray takes the Brazilian's thin hand in both of hers, speaking softly to her in Portuguese.

During the last three years, she's done that with several hundred AIDS patients.

"Touching patients is one of the most important things we do," Gray says, explaining "Brazilians live and talk very close to each other. They're constantly touching."

When someone in Brazil gets diagnosed as HIV-positive, human touch is usually what he or she loses first.

That was true for Elizabeth, one of the first AIDS patients to stay at the house.

She was considering suicide before she met Gray and her Brazilian co-worker Penha Alcantara, a full-time volunteer for the house.

They were the first non-medical people to touch Elizabeth since she told family and friends she was HIV-positive.

Elizabeth accepted Christ in the hospital before she died. So



did 95 other AIDS patients helped by House of Hope workers.

Gray keeps a notebook with information on each patient she knows and red marks beside the names of ones who've died. So far, there are more than 200.

For Gray and her colleagues, those odds are hard to handle.

Brazilian Baptist state convention missionary Francisca Zenilde do Nascimento, the house's vice director, found her work tough at first.

"Every case seemed to be worse than the others. Every time I'd talk to a patient, I'd want to go cry," says Nascimento, who prays with each patient morning and night. "All of them said, 'There is no hope, no solution to my problem.'"

Nascimento and her col-

leagues give the only answer they know. "I tell them that there's hope in Christ," she says, "that there's something beyond this. There's someone who wants to comfort and care for them."

One patient Railene, who had become a prostitute after running away from home to escape her abusive father.

Railene had a child by a man who gave her the HIV virus. She often asked: "Why should I have this 'Jesus' in my heart, now that I have this sickness?"

One day Railene and her mother — who was visiting that day — prayed to accept Christ.

"The way patients are received at the house is something very important for their lives," adds Paulo Pecanha, a Brazilian Baptist infectious disease specialist.

He began treating the state's first AIDS patients 10 years ago and helped fellow Baptists open House of Hope.

"When (AIDS patients) first visit the house, some say, 'We feel like we're in heaven,'" the doctor says.

Thanks to Baptists and House of Hope, some of them really are.

* TOUCHING LIVES — Karen Gray (left) of Moss Point, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary, comforts AIDS patient Regina Celia Teixeira Carvalho at "House of Hope," a Baptist AIDS hospice in Vitoria, Brazil. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)



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Venezuela mission trip yields professions

By Dewey Dunn
Mission Team leader

A total of 106 volunteers on 15 teams served in more than 30 locations during a recent mission trip to Valencia, Venezuela, under the auspices of the Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership project.

The partnership project is administered by the Partnership Missions Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

This was the second year of a three-year plan to start new work in South Central Baptist Association in the central part of the country.

The team leaders were all persons who had previously served in Venezuela, and half of the volunteers were veterans of Venezuela mission trips.

The group met at First Church, Valencia, for a time of celebration before leaving for their places of service — some as far as five hours away.

Some volunteers returned to their places of service from last year's trip, and missionary families joined each team.

Venezuelan volunteers also came from other parts of the country to participate in the mission work.

Each team that went out from Valencia has its own unique story of what brought them there.

For Team 10, it was a blessing to return to Camp Carabobo after a year to find people who made decisions for Christ now occupying places of church leadership.

There were great improvements this year in organization on the Venezuelan side, with the preparation of spiritual counselors who led many people to Christ.

Mississippians involved in the mission trip included:

— Woodrow Brand Sr. of Aberdeen.

— June Harrington of Amory.

— Bill Hardy, director of the MBCB Partnership Missions Office.

Hardy served as the spiritual leader on one team and led the singing for large group meetings.

Gib Kelly of Savannah, Mo., was making his 11th Venezuelan mission trip, and Larry Poston of Nashville was making his 15th mission trip to Venezuela.

An enormous amount of work was accomplished prior to the trip. Medications had to be gathered, processed, and packed for each team.

There were answered



HELPING HANDS — Southern Baptist missionary physician Paul Seale (center, seated) and volunteer nurse Dee Smith of Pensacola, Fla., (standing, far right) examine a family of young Venezuelan patients in one of the medical clinics staffed by Southern Baptist volunteers on a recent mission trip sponsored by the Partnership Missions Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Special photo)

prayers — a lost airline ticket was found, there was no luggage inspection at the Caracas (Venezuela) airport, and 17 footlockers came off the conveyor belt in Nashville to be stored for future medical mission trips.

We give God the glory for the 12,465 patients treated, and for the 2,959 decisions for Christ.

For more information on

partnership missions, contact Hardy at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Editor's note: Dunn is chief of gastroenterology at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Nashville. He has been leading mission trips to Venezuela since the 1980s, when Tennessee Baptists partnered with Venezuela Baptists.



*In a world
filled with
confusion...
Is there any
hope?*

God's desire is to give you hope.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..."
Romans 1:16

Sin robs us of this life of hope!

"For the wages of sin is death..."
Romans 6:23

Jesus cares for you!

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8

It's your choice.

You must decide for yourself if you are willing to turn from your sins and ask Jesus into your heart.

"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."
Romans 10:9

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Chance meeting with Jim Bakker stirs thoughts

DANVILLE, Va. (BP) —When a Southern Baptist pastor boarded a plane to fly to a trustee meeting at New Orleans Seminary last winter, he recognized a famous fellow passenger — Jim Bakker.

It wasn't the first time Don Davidson had seen the founder of the now-defunct PTL television ministry.

As a teenager, his Tidewater, Va. church filmed half-hour programs at the Christian Broadcasting Network, where Bakker formerly worked. One night they shook hands on the set.

Now, as they were leaving the airplane and walking toward the baggage claims area, Davidson, pastor of Mount Hermon Church, Danville, Va., introduced himself to Bakker.

As they talked, Davidson learned that Bakker was writing "I Was Wrong," his newly published autobiographical account of the fall of PTL and his five years in prison.

In it, the former televangelist refutes the "health and wealth gospel" that helped fuel his multi-million-dollar empire.

During their 20-minute conversation, it was the only theological topic Davidson brought up, asking Bakker if his views had changed.

Bakker responded that he spent many hours in prison comparing the words of Jesus with the idea that God wants every believer to be rich — and, Bakker said, the doctrine "didn't match up."

One verse often quoted by those supporting prosperity doctrine, according to Bakker, is 3 John 2: "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper and be in health, just as your soul prospers." (NKJV)

In his book, the former Assembly of God pastor outlines a detailed explanation of that and other "prosperity" verses.

He cites extensive Bible study and research to conclude that John was not stating a principle favoring Christian wealth.

Bakker compares 3 John 2 to a similar greeting in Romans 1:10, concluding in the latter that the apostle Paul was simply saying, "I sure hope God grants me an opportunity to visit you soon. Please pray that I will have a good journey on the road as I travel to see you."

In disavowing the idea that all Christians should be rich, Bakker quotes Matthew 6:25 and 31-33, where Jesus says his followers are not to worry about what they will eat, drink, or wear. And, Luke 6:24: "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort." (NIV)

"I used to make much of the word 'prosper' in 3 John 2, seeing it as financial, material prosperity," Davidson quoted Bakker as saying.

"More study taught me that John was using that word as a greeting and best wishes to his readers.

"It's incredible how we can build such a system of error on a single verse of Scripture, wrongly interpreted," Bakker said.

Davidson said he believes the once-famous TV preacher is humble and repentant, an impression that remains after seeing him since on television.

Bakker isn't fiery or accusing, said Davidson, because he has been broken.

When he asked Bakker if he was aware of the media circus surrounding his fall, the evangelist described seeing someone on an airplane, reading a magazine with his picture on the cover.

"I was devastated," he said. "Earlier, of course, I would have wanted to be on the front cover of a major newsmagazine. But not like this. I am a very shy person and this was humiliating."

Still, he related how his prison experience ended up being a blessing.

At first he wondered if God still loved him or had abandoned him.

Through extended Scripture study, Bakker regained his faith and assurance that God was there.

During the conversation, the Virginia pastor thought how ironic it was that when Bakker had an audience of millions he had very little worthwhile to say.

Now, he shared a highly significant message with an audience of one, Davidson remarked.

Davidson said he found himself genuinely liking this scarred and broken preacher partially because he realizes how easy it would be for him to fall.

All ministers are vulnerable to the right mixture of sex, power, money, and lack of accountability, Davidson said.

"I genuinely wished him well and I still do. I think God has something he (God) can do with him now."

Though Bakker was part of a charismatic church, Davidson, a graduate of Southeastern Seminary in North Carolina, said he believes the televangelist's fall and restoration represent valuable lessons for all Christians.

"It teaches us we need to keep money in the right place and seek first the kingdom of God," Davidson said. "Secondly, but equally important, it's a warning as to how quickly a lifetime of Christian testimony can be lost."

"For 15 to 20 minutes of pleasure, (in Bakker's book) he talks about walking out of the hotel, realizing what he had done."

The former PTL leader's fall also serves as a warning to all pastors, Davidson added.

"Those who preach the Word need to be sure we're not passing on faulty interpretation. I think God expects his ministers to put in time and study his Word."

LIKE THE NEW LOOK

Editor:

It's terrific when Mississippi Baptists accomplish something that ranks them among the world's best.

We've done this in missions, evangelism, and ministry.

The most recent addition to this list is our publication — "The Baptist Record."

Always a solid communication tool for our state, the new look and style has set a standard that will be difficult for others to follow.

Glory to God.

The staff is to be commended. Keep up the good work.

Chris Burrows, pastor
Morning View Church
Mantachie

THANKS FOR SUPPORT

Editor:

The Dec. 12 edition just arrived in northern Namibia. What a missions edition!

From the front page story (and insert) to the editorial and on through coverage of the appointment service, this volume certainly emphasized the important place of foreign mis-

sions in the life of Mississippi Baptists.

As former Mississippi Baptists and current SBC foreign missionaries, we continue to rejoice in what is happening in our state convention in support of foreign missions.

This morning I visited with the leader of our Kakuni Baptist Church, Frans Njamba, to help do his church report for calendar year 1996.

This church meets in a simple building of logs they cut themselves covered with tin provided by Southern Baptist gifts.

Last year the church increased from 93 to 107 members and had 16 baptisms.

The people, all subsistence farmers or wood-carvers, gave 225 Namibian collars in tithes and offerings. That is an average of 95 cents a week in American money.

They average 40 people in the congregation and have recently started a preaching point five miles away that averages 15 adults in attendance.

When Frans leads the preaching point in worship, he has to walk the five miles to do so.

These (people) are thankful for the Cooperative Program

and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, though they don't know what those words mean.

All they know is Southern Baptists sent someone here to teach them God's Word.

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for your faithful support through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Don and Carol Minshew
SBC missionaries
Rundu, Namibia

Editor's note: Don served as pastor of Lake Forest Church, Northwest Association, for 10 years prior to going to the mission field.

BMHCS PROVIDES WITNESS

Editor:

I have read and re-read the article regarding the disapproval of Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (BMHCS) providing health care for the employees of the Grand Casino in Tunica County (Dec. 19 issue).

As a Christian, I have mixed emotions about this situation. As Christians, is it not our duty to provide a witness everywhere, whether it be among casino employees, the streets of

New York, New Orleans, etc. — whether it be aggressive witnessing or subtle (such as health care)?

My husband and I relocated from California (near Lake Tahoe and Reno).

We are fully aware of the effects of gambling and are disappointed that Mississippi has approved casino gambling.

Also, it seems that if Arkansas and Tennessee rejected casinos, it appears that Mississippi did not fight quite hard enough to keep them out.

Surely, there are enough Baptists in this state that they either could have had more influence or some of them voted in favor of the gambling issue.

So, it seems to me that BMHCS saw a need and chose to attempt to fill that need.

I'd rather that need be filled by them as by a medical facility which might not provide Christian witness.

Myra Lanham
Booneville



JUST FOR THE RECORD



Highland Church, Crystal Springs, recently held its RA Recognition Service. Pictured, from left, back row, are Kelly McLendon, Micheal Thornton, Chris Thornton, Jonathan Evans, Luke Rials, and Bradley Anderson; center row, Matthew Lenard, Owen Jones, Daniel Sims, and Dusty Kees; front row, Randy Merchant, Stephen Sims, and Art Alford.



Highland Church, Crystal Springs, recently held its GA Recognition Service. Pictured, from left, back row, Linda Courtney, Heather Martin, Melissa Evans, Tammy Brewer, Bridgette McManus, Marsha Anderson, Brittany Wade, Laura Thornton, Wanda McManus, and Ann Rials; front row, Dawn Lee, Heather McLendon, Lauren McGee, Jessi Wade, Tabitha Brewer, Kayce Lee, and Alicia Schubring. Not pictured are Kimberly Clements and Kristen Lenard.

January Bible Study will be held at Leaf River Church, Smith County, Jan. 26, 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., Jan. 27-29. The times are 7 p.m. nightly. Claude Shufelt, pastor, Parkway Church, Scott County, presiding.

First Church and North Winona Church, Winona, will present "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames," Feb. 9, 10, and 11, at 7 p.m. This dramatized real life presentation will be presented at First Church, Winona.

Pope Church, Panola County, will have a special Baptist Men's Day service on Jan. 26. Lieutenant Governor Ronnie Musgrove will be the

featured speaker at the 11 a.m. service. Ronnie Robinson, executive director of the Baptist Children's Village, will speak at the 5:30 p.m. service. Jimmy Bryant is pastor.

Focus on the Family's Single-Parent Seminar will be held on Jan. 25 at First Church, Jackson, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The speakers will be Sandra P. Aldrich, author; Jay Carty, former pro-basketball player and founder of Yes! Ministries; Patricia Bigliardi, a single parent and previous guest on the "Focus on the Family" broadcast; and Lynda Hunter, editor of "Single-Parent Family" magazine. For more information or to register, call 1-800-782-8827 or (601) 949-1906.



The Shepherd's Staff Counseling Center, Jackson, recently celebrated its 15th anniversary. Founded in 1981, the Shepherd's Staff is a private Christian counseling and educational center. Staff therapists provide counseling services to individuals, couples, and families, and also work with churches, businesses, and community organizations in training and development. Pictured are (from left, front row) Ruth Glaze, Bradley Pope, Phil Hardin, Judy Parker; (second row) Gloria Martin, Larry Brown, Steve Bearden, David B. Grantham, Randy Weeks, Kathy Saucier-Jones, and Brenda Chance Donald.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (While church membership is not required, Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.



RAs of Hillcrest Church, Jackson, recently collected 75 New Testaments for the Green River Association in Wyoming in response to the Letters to the Editor in "The Baptist Record" (Oct. 3 issue). These New Testaments will be used to share the gospel with every household in the Wyoming Association. Pictured are Jeremy Travelstead, Jay Taylor, Brad Dorman, Jonathan Reves, and Will Dorman. Leaders are John and Barbara Reves, Gary Holden, and Fields Bacon. John F. Taylor is pastor.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Kingdom greatness

Matthew 20

By Mark Long

In Matthew chapter 20, Jesus continued teaching the implications of his suffering and death, as stated in 16:21. Again the issue of greatness surfaced among the disciples. Formerly (chapters 18 and 19) Jesus taught of greatness in the kingdom in terms of humility. Here he taught that kingdom greatness is servanthood and subjugation.

A Prophecy (Matt. 20:17-19). For the third time Jesus foretold his death (cf. 16:21-23; 17:22-23). Betrayal, a death-sentence from the Jewish leaders, and crucifixion at the hands of Gentiles awaited Jesus. Yet he journeyed on. Why? Jesus could also see the resurrection ahead. He considered the reward worth the service.

Some of the disciples, however, either didn't comprehend Christ's death, or they were still self-absorbed concerning personal position in the kingdom. Though Jesus set the example for them, the disciples just didn't get it. Human nature hasn't changed, has it?

A Request (20:20-21). The request of James' and John's mother was terribly misdirected. The seat to the right of the king's is the seat of highest honor, the seat to the left is the second highest. In 19:28 Jesus did promise that his disciples would sit on thrones and be judges in the kingdom. These disciples humbly requested the two "greatest" thrones. The second person plural, "you don't know what you ask," of verse 22, indi-



Long

cates the request was truly the disciples'.

The disciples clearly did not yet understand kingdom greatness. Their view was worldly and pagan—authority and power. Aren't we glad Jesus took care of this, and the church doesn't suffer from this today?

A Response (20:22-23). The disciples said they could drink of the same cup as Jesus. However, by abandoning Jesus at his crucifixion they showed they weren't yet ready to lay down their lives.

Jesus assured the disciples they would be ready to drink of the same cup one day. Even so, the requested seats were not his to bestow. Jesus continually deferred to the Father, showing the disciples that one can humbly submit to God even during uncertainty. The Father is sure. That's enough for his servants.

A Reaction (20:24). Though James and John made the request, they barely beat the

other disciples to the punch. Though the other disciples were infuriated, they were little better. What did it matter, unless they wanted the seats for themselves? The disciples, in general, still did not understand kingdom greatness.

A Principle (20:25-27). Jesus pointed out the commonly held world view of greatness—power and authority. The disciples could understand this. As Jews they had been the humble subjects of unfair Roman rule all their lives. Yet they couldn't wait to have that kind of greatness in God's kingdom.

Having established worldly greatness, Jesus commanded, "This will not be among you!" Then, using the dramatic Greek alla (translated "instead," NIV or "but," KJV), Jesus told of the opposite of power and authority, "Whoever desires to be great among you must become your deacon." The word translated "servant," or "minister," in verse 26 is the same word translated "deacon" elsewhere. The

deacon bodies of our churches embody the servant attitude of kingdom greatness, as their namesake here indicates. Opposite of the desire for personal power, authority, or honor, Jesus showed that kingdom greatness is servanthood and subjugation. In a very real sense, we are all deacons to one another. Some people are simply set aside for special servanthood to the church.

An Example (20:28). Jesus is the personification of the greatness of servanthood and subjugation. He came not to be served, but to serve. Jesus' servant role was to die as the ransom which purchased our lives. Jesus' giving of his life made it possible for us to give ours. That's the point. That is why Jesus negated the possibility of his disciples' quest for personal power, position, and honor. Kingdom greatness is to make ourselves low for others, and allow God to lift us up as he pleases.

Long is pastor, First Church, Perkinston.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Be true to Christ

Matthew 26:14-16, 20-25, 47-50; 27:1-5

By Mary Ellen Powell

No one knows for sure why Judas chose to betray Christ, but we do know that he made a choice that had horrendous effects. In our own lives, being untrue to Christ takes many forms, but the result is always the same: irrevocable consequences and a separation from Christ.

Sell Out (Matt. 26:14-16). No one can ever truly understand Judas' motives, but his actions clearly showed that he was not devoted to the calling of Christ. Our own actions in response to the call of Christ show our level of devotion. Judas was motivated by money. For us the manner in which we manage

money is a clear example of what is truly important in our lives. We need to examine all areas of our lives to determine if we are being true to what Christ would have us to do.

Last Warning (vv. 20-25). Jesus confronted Judas directly with his sin by stating that He knew what was to come. How could Judas look into the eyes of Christ and still betray him? It seems impossible that Judas could be so immune to the words of Christ, but we are often just as immune ourselves. Christ often confronts us through his Word, a sermon, or a fellow believer concerning an area of disobedience in our lives.



Powell

Sometimes we listen and change our ways. Sometimes we persist in our disobedience.

Deadly Kiss (vv. 47-50). Why did Judas betray Jesus with a kiss? There are many theories concerning this matter, but regardless of why it happened, the fact remains that Judas used a symbol of love in a hypocritical manner. As Christians we often perform hypocritical acts, even in the service of Christ. When we are not honest with God and with ourselves about our spiritual state, we are hypocrites. Before we condemn Judas, we must first look at ourselves and our own hypocries.

Painful Remorse (Matt. 27:1-4). After Judas had committed his terrible deeds, he was filled with remorse. He went as far as returning the silver to the priests. There are several lessons from this incident.

1) You can never totally undo something you have done. We all live with times that we wish could be lived over again, but that is impossible. This realization should cause us to be careful before we act.

2) You may learn to hate the thing you wanted so badly in the first place. This is clearly seen in a person who leaves their spouse for someone else only to realize that the new partner is not really who they wanted. By the time that realization comes, there is at least one family left in ruin.

3) You can never depend on the world to show you mercy when you've made a mistake. The priests used Judas and paid him off. When we as Christians fall in line with the world's standards, we are setting ourselves up to be hurt and to cause hurt for others because we have disobeyed the laws of God.

Bitter End (v. 5). In the end, Judas came to a horrible death,

but his death did not change the outcome of his decision. One of the leading causes of death among adolescents today is suicide. However, suicide never solves anything. As Christians, we must show compassion and give comfort at a painful time. Only the hope of Christ can bring help in what seems a hopeless situation.

Had Judas stayed true to Jesus, he might have died a martyr's death and have been remembered with the other disciples who gave their lives for the cause of Christ. Because of his decision, he is remembered as a terrible traitor, totally without honor. The costs of betraying Christ cause harm to ourselves, others, and to our Savior. Let us look within ourselves to root out areas of hypocrisy and untruthfulness to the cause of Christ and then take those things to Christ for forgiveness.

Powell is a member of First Church, Clinton.

LIFE AND WORK

The compassionate Lord

Matthew 14:13-21, 15:29-39

By Thad Moore

Someone described compassion as a sign of a great heart. Compassion is understanding the troubles of others, coupled with an earnest desire to help. It is cultivating an ability to put yourself in the other fellow's shoes. Let us see how Jesus had compassion for others.

Moved with Compassion (Matt. 14:13-15). Jesus had just heard of the death of John the Baptist. He left the boat to be alone. Apparently he was getting away from the hostility John the Baptist faced.

The crowds followed Jesus. When the boat stopped, Jesus saw a large crowd and had compassion for them. His com-

passion was shown in his works. Compassion cannot be stored inside a person's heart. It must be shared with people who need ministry.

The disciples wanted to send the people away because the hour was late and the place was remote. It was time to eat and the disciples were ready to let the people go home. Jesus had another answer for the problem as we see later on in the text.

Acting on compassion. Jesus responded to the disciples as if they had a large storehouse of food. The "you" in verse sixteen is emphatic. Jesus was demanding faith and works. He expected immediate action for the



Moore

hungry people.

Later on, in the New Testament our Lord's half brother wrote the book of James. In this book he challenges anyone's salvation who says they have faith without works. Rather, he says faith, if it is genuine faith, will produce works. Many times these works will be deeds of compassion as modeled by Jesus. As one preacher stated, "We should walk the talk and talk the walk, because our talk walks and our walk talks."

The Result of Compassion (18-21). Jesus took what they had, five loaves and two fishes and feed the hungry crowd. He was not worried about their apparent lack of resources. God can always take our limited resources, bless them, and use them to meet needs.

After he blessed the food the entire crowd was fed. There was even food left over. Compassion

will always produce works. Those works will produce results. This miracle must have made a tremendous impression on all present. It is the only miracle reported in all four gospels.

This miracle not only shows the results of compassion, but also reveals the messiahship of Jesus. As God through Moses had led the Israelites in the desert, Jesus, the promised Son of God, fed his people. This miracle, like so many others, is a revelation of Jesus as the Son of God, the promised Messiah for his people.

The Inclusiveness of Compassion (Matt. 15:22-27). We change chapters but Christ's compassion has not changed. He left the region of Tyre and Sidon and went to the area along the Sea of Galilee. In these areas he showed his love for gentiles. His power and compassion are revealed by healing the sick and feeding the hungry. He showed his concern

for spiritual and physical needs. Hopefully, we will attempt to minister to the whole person, physically and spiritually.

The feeding of the four thousand closely parallels the feeding of the five thousand. Only a few details are different. One difference is significant. This time Jesus reached out to Gentiles as well as Jews. He loved both groups.

Jesus is showing us his concern for all people. His compassion is never limited to one group. His love is available to all. Daniel Webster said, "The ugliest word in the English language is exclusive." Our personal ministries and the ministries of our church should include everyone. Selective ministry may not be ministry at all. Persons of every race and culture deserve to be ministered to in the name of Christ.

Moore is pastor, First Church, Holly Springs.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Senita Arthur Walker, a graduate of Mississippi College in 1969, has received the 1996 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Walker is a librarian at Woodley

Elementary School in Hattiesburg. The Milken Educator Award recognizes Walker as one of four outstanding educators receiving the award this year in the state of Mississippi.

Bivo music class now open for enrollment

Registration is open for the seventh of eight courses offered around the state by New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) to train bivocational church music directors and church educational directors.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period.

Each course is independent and has no prerequisite.

There is a one time registration fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$75.

Upon completion of the two year cycle, each student will receive a certificate from the seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on-campus degree program.

The course "Voice Class" will meet once a week for eight weeks at four locations:

◆ **Broadmoor Church, Jackson**, beginning Jan. 27, 7-9 p.m. Teacher: Jimmy McCaleb.

◆ **First Church, Columbus**, beginning Jan. 21, 7-9 p.m. Teacher: Ed Nix.

◆ **First Church, Purvis**, beginning Jan. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Teacher: James Hayes.

◆ **Liberty Church, Liberty**, beginning Jan. 20, 7-9 p.m. Teacher: Buddy McElory. (Course: "Song Leading").

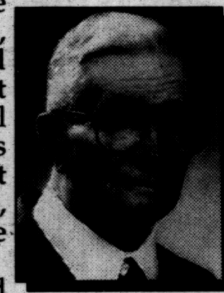
NOBTS coordinator Chester Vaughn of Jackson said the classes could be offered at other locations around the state where a minimum of 10-12 students are interested in enrolling in the course.

For more information, contact Vaughn at 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.

W. Pippen, minister, dies

William Otho Pippen, 86, a member of Sandersville Church, Sandersville, died Oct. 17, 1996, at Jasper General Hospital. Services were held at First Church of Sharon, with burial in the Sharon Cemetery.

Pippen had been a minister since 1945, having served the following churches: New Montpelier, Old Montpelier, West End, Hebron, Clay County; Antioch, Kolola Springs, Lowndes County; First, Kennedy, Ala.; Oakland Grove Bethel, Jones County; Fair Ridge and Antioch, Jasper County; and Evergreen, Wayne County.



Pippen

He attended Jones County Junior College, Mississippi College, Mississippi State University, and received his masters' degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Pippen, a school teacher, retired from Montpelier High School as Drug Education Specialist. He also worked with the Boy Scouts of America for 60 years.

Pippen is survived by his wife of 56 years, Margaret Pierce Pippen; daughter Barbara Pippen Sellers and family, Bayliss and Clay Sellers; daughter Kathy Pippen McLaurin and family, Charles, Chip, and Kari McLaurin; son David Pippen and family, Faye, Jonathan, and Amanda Pippen; and great granddaughter Allison. He is also survived by two sisters, Mellie Touchstone and Willie Mae Garrison Cox, and brother J. O. Pippen Sr.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The Aguado Guitar Club/William Carey College Classic Guitar Competition was held recently on campus. Miroslav Loncar, assistant professor of music and artist in residence, directed the students. Contestants who received first place awards in various categories were Kelly Hodges Naylor, Marcus Howell, Ashley Woodard, Mark Anderson, and Beau Lang, all of Hattiesburg; Rebekah Wilke, Petal; Todd Adams, Ocean Springs; Karen McQueen, Wiggins; Clark Beasley, Crystal Springs, and Joe Kelley, Albertville, Ala. For information about future guitar camps, call the Music Department at (601) 582-6175.

William Carey College has been awarded the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's Team Academic Award. To receive the award a team must have a minimum composite grade point average of 3.0 for the year based on a 4.0 scale. Only athletes who appear on an NCAA or NAIA official squad lists for soccer during the previous fall are eligible. The Carey Crusader Women's Soccer Team was also honored with a combined grade point average of 3.35.

Mississippi College Institute for Christian Leadership will offer "Preaching to the Secular Mind," Feb. 11, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Calvin Miller, professor of com-

munication and ministry studies and writer in residence for Southwestern Seminary, will be in charge of the program. For more information or to make reservations, contact Carole Moore at (601) 925-3301.

Grace Church, Philadelphia, has called **Tony Hinton** as minister of music and activities effective Dec. 1. A native of Liberty,



Hinton

Hinton received his education at Belhaven College and Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Zion Hill, Wesson.

First Church, Pearl, has called **Michael E. Pierce** as minister of education and students effective Dec. 1. He formerly served as minister of youth and activities at Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs, and youth activities director at Highland Church, Vicksburg.

Danny Smith resigned Victory Church, Mathiston, effective Jan. 3.

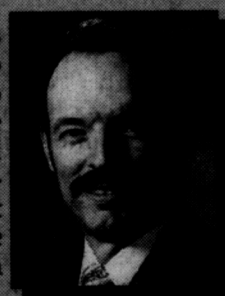
Byram Church, Jackson, has called **Roy J. Maine Jr.** as pas-

STAFF CHANGES

tor effective Jan. 5. A native of San Francisco, Calif., Maine received his education at William Carey College and Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla. His previous place of service was Easthaven Church, Richland.

Dee DeBold has resigned as bivocational pastor at Shivers Church, Simpson County, after three years.

He has moved to Monticello where he teaches and coaches basketball at Lawrence County High School. DeBold is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He pastored full time in Pennsylvania and Mississippi for 15 years before entering bivocational ministry. DeBold is available for interim, supply, or bivocational pastorate. He may be reached at Rt. 1, Box 13-AA, Monticello MS 39654 or call (601) 587-7806.



DeBold

J. Mitchell Osborne has retired and is now available for supply, interim, revivals, and/or small-church pastorate. He may be reached at Rt. 2, Box 40-3, Seminary, MS 39479 or call (601) 722-4977.

Ken Stringer, director of missions of Covington-Jefferson Davis Association since March 1985, retired on Dec. 31. A reception was held in his honor on Dec. 8. He and his wife Mary were presented a plaque and a monetary gift. Stringer is available for supply work. He may be contacted at P.O. Box 1772, Collins MS 39428 or call (601) 765-6683. He will be serving as interim director of the association until the position is filled.

Country Woods, Jackson, has called **Steve Bufkin** as minister of music and education effective Jan. 5. A native of Delhi, La., Bufkin received his education at Hinds Community College, Louisiana College, and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Coshatta, La.

HOMEcomings

Grace, Philadelphia: Feb. 2; 11 a.m.; covered dish luncheon following worship services; 1 p.m. singing; Dennis Duvall, pastor.

Sports ministry occupies holy ground

BETHLEHEM (BP) — "No, dribble with your left hand!" David Swenson shouts to a middle schooler struggling with the basketball.



EAGER TO LEARN — Enthusiasm for basketball among West Bank residents of Bethlehem gives Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representative David Swenson (right) many opportunities to build relationships and tell others about Bethlehem's Jesus. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

It could be practice anywhere, with a coach working hard to drive home roundball basics, but this is Bethlehem, a few miles from where Jesus was born.

Swenson and his wife Joyce are Southern Baptist workers who moved here with their four children in January 1996 to establish a ministry.

Ultimately, the "game" the Swensons want to teach is the same good news that arrived here some 2,000 years ago in the person of Jesus, the region's most famous son.

Sports will be a main key to being here and getting to know people.

Already Swenson has learned his way along the rough roads that seemingly meander off Bible pages and through the rugged valleys and hillsides.

A few miles from his home is Shepherd's Field, where the birth of Christ was announced.

Drive with Swenson, and he'll casually tell you that on that flat-topped hill there King Herod had his summer palace and back there, in Bethlehem, was Rachel's Tomb.

Those three spring-fed pools here go back to the time of Solomon.

Historical events merge with current ones: The West Bank starts just outside Bethlehem on the way from Jerusalem.

Palestinians now call it the Northern District of the Palestinian Autonomous Region.

Swenson has learned where the military checkpoints are and how to swap out cars — the Israeli-registered yellow-plated car for the Palestinian-registered blue-plated car, which can't enter Jerusalem.

Most days life is calm here, but there's always an edge, a tension in the background that never goes away completely.

"The Israeli soldiers want to know why anybody would want to be here, and (they) look at us like they can't believe it," Joyce says.

As Americans, the Swensons come and go with relative freedom; the main inconvenience is the traffic jams at the border.

Basketball doesn't approach the passion of West Bank politics, but it comes close.

Respectable and vocal crowds turn out for games between church or private club teams.

Swenson attends local games, getting to know future players and getting himself known.

Locals like the idea of having an American help with their American game, especially an experienced coach with a good grasp of the basics.

Early in 1996 a second Southern Baptist couple arrived to help.

Jim and Gail Stephens of Houston assist the Swensons.

Jim, a winning high school coach in Houston, also has a good grasp of sports basics.

For now, though, they are immersed in Arabic studies.

Eventually the two couples hope a church will emerge from their work.

More than 60% of the people in this area are traditionally Christian, the highest percentage in the region.

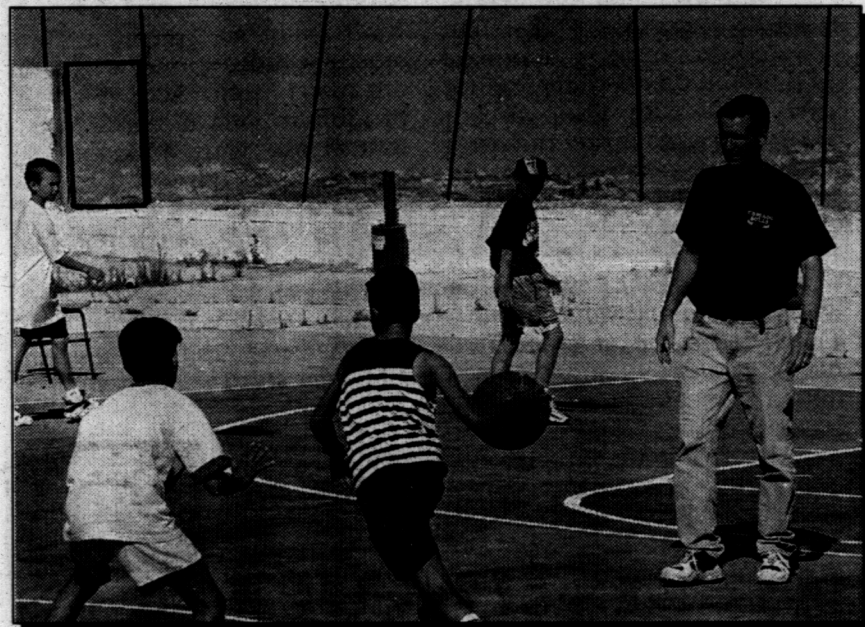
Catholic and Orthodox

church buildings are scattered across the city, with a sprinkling of Islamic mosques.

Even among the "Christian" community, few know Christ personally.

For now, meeting people and getting to know them is an important task for both Southern Baptist couples.

It will help them tell about the meaning — the real meaning — of that baby born just down the road almost 2,000 years ago.



TEACHING FUNDAMENTALS — An experienced American coach with a good grasp of basketball fundamentals will have many opportunities in the West Bank's Bethlehem, as Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representatives Jim Stephens (above) and David Swenson have discovered. Working in the city's basketball leagues gives them a chance to tell people who live within a few miles of where Jesus was born about the region's "famous Son." (BP photo by Mike Creswell)



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Our pastor left his wife for a woman in our congregation. How can I teach my teenaged sons this is wrong when the deacons say, "It's all right. After all, he's only a man."?

Wow! Church leaders — are you hearing this? We cannot wink at sin or ever attempt to make it look right. There are many sets of impressionable eyes watching us make decisions as Christians. Sure, ministers are human, but the issue here is the wrongness of the adultery. Tell your sons over and over: "This is wrong, and there are no two ways to look at it. You must flee from sin (1 Cor. 6:18-20)." Let them observe that you mean it by your actions and words. Pray for their purity and for their future mate. Explain to them that maintaining a vibrant love within marriage is the way real men live.

After 25 years of marriage, my heart feels empty and I don't want to go on. My husband says he loves me, but there's no action to his words.

What would happen if you turned your eyes from your husband and focused on God? Please don't turn away and think, "Here we go again: 'Let go and let God.'" Consider this marriage-maximizing acrostic: Magnify common goals. Affect appreciation. Exercise to grow. Invigorate your play. Major on communications. Indwell in the spiritual. Zealously guard time. Enjoy!

Give this acrostic to your husband and observe how it is received. You cannot change your partner, but you can change yourself. Pray for guidance and proper timing.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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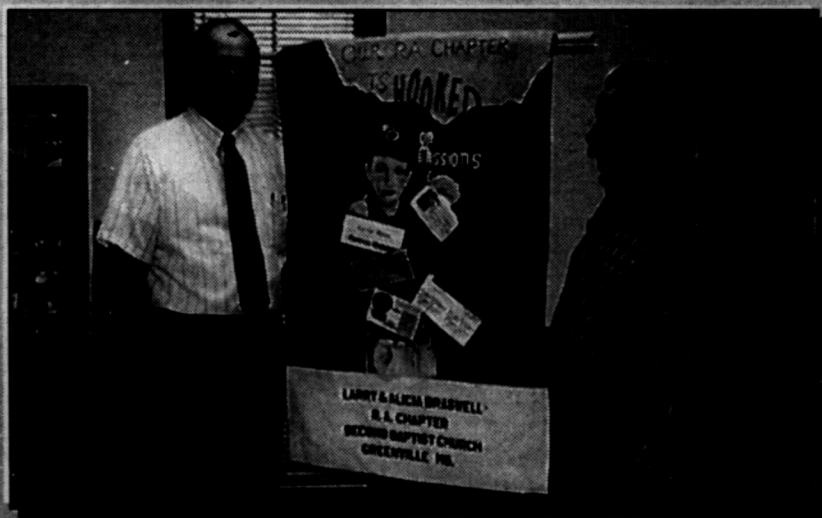
KPS SQFK HWW EQF
MFBPMWF SFAF GHMEBIFJ,
BE ZHUF EP MHRR, EQHE
YFRDR HWRP GFBKC
GHMEBIFJ, HKJ MAHN-
BKC, EQF QFHLFK SHR
PMFKFJ.

WDXF EQAFF: ESFKEN-PKF

Clue: Z equals C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Thirty-five Four

Washington observes RA Week



Kenneth West (left), director of missions, Washington Association, talks with James Kerr (right), associational Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador (RA) director, about plans for celebrating Nov. 3-9 as Royal Ambassador Week. Kerr received proclamations from the Greenville mayor and Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice declaring RA Week.

As a part of the celebration, the Larry and Alicia Braswell RA chapter of Second Church, Greenville, developed a mission display. They also raised \$348.36 for World Hunger Offering, purchased a suit for a Colorado pastor, and gave \$40 to the Opportunity Now project. Leaders for the chapter are Kerr, director, and Pat Hagewood, counselor.